

THE  
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
OFFICERS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REFUGE  
FOR  
Western Pennsylvania,

For the Year ending December 31, 1857.

PITTSBURGH:  
PRINTED BY W. S. HAVEN, CORNER OF MARKET AND SECOND STREETS.  
MDCCCLVIII.

# Officers and Managers for 1858.

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**J. PERCHMENT, M. D.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT.**

**THOMAS G. RUTHERFORD.**

*Assistant Superintendent,* - - - - - **S. J. FREW.**

<i>Principal Teacher of Boys' School,</i>	- - - - -	<b>S. J. FREW.</b>
<i>Assistant Teachers of Boys' School,</i>	- - - - -	{ <b>JAMES D. TURNER,</b> <b>GEO. M'KINLEY.</b>
<i>Matron,</i>	- - - - -	<b>Miss ANN MAGEE.</b>
<i>Assistant Matron,</i>	- - - - -	" <b>H. CUTLER.</b>
<i>Teacher of Girls' School,</i>	- - - - -	" <b>E. HERVEY.</b>

## ANNUAL MEETING OF CONTRIBUTORS.

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Office of the House of Refuge, }  
PITTSBURGH, *Monday, January 4th, 1858.* }

THE Contributors met pursuant to notice, published in two of the city papers, by the President.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of R. C. Loomis, Chairman, and John L. Sands, Secretary. The several Reports of the Board, Superintendent, Physician, Ladies' Committee, and Treasurer, were submitted, when on motion the said Reports were directed to be published in pamphlet form, for distribution, and the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, with the Secretary of the Board, were appointed a Committee to superintend the publication.

Tellers were appointed, and the Contributors proceeded to the election of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and twelve Managers, for the ensuing year. After a ballot was had, the Tellers reported the following gentlemen elected: President, James Anderson; Vice President, Joseph Pennock; Treasurer, Joshua Hanna; Secretary, B. J. Hanna; Managers, L. R. Livingston, James Schoonmaker, John T. Logan, Allen Kramer, George Darsie, George Weyman, James M'Candless, Gilbert L. B. Fetterman, James K. Moorhead, John Heron, Joseph Kirkpatrick, William Dilworth, Sr.

Adjourned.

R. C. LOOMIS, *Chairman.*

JOHN L. SANDS, *Secretary.*



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## Managers' Report.

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THE Board of Managers of the House of Refuge of Western Pennsylvania, in presenting to the Contributors and members of the State Legislature their Fourth Annual Report, do so with increased confidence in the importance of the work committed to their care. At the commencement of its course, it was doubtful in the judgment of some of the community whether much good could be done by a State Institution for the reformation of youthful offenders. To change their sentiments on this subject, and to persuade them to believe—facts, as the result of the labors in this Institution, must inspire confidence. From this source there is now an accumulation of testimony, and it is hoped that a careful examination of the statistical tables accompanying this Report, will constrain the most skeptical to believe that the House of Refuge of Western Pennsylvania is entitled to generous confidence and liberal support.

Out of the whole number of those who have been discharged from this Institution, 151 boys and 69 girls, there have been returned 15 boys and 11 girls, and “we know,” says the Superintendent, “of but 12 boys and 6 girls, whose characters are at present doubtful or who are not doing well.” *One hundred and seven'y-six doing well.* When we consider the depths of depravity into which many of these children had fallen, the utter destitution and squalid wretchedness of others, we feel assured that

you will say God speed this noble work. We would here say that great credit is due to both Superintendent and Matron for these blessed results, and we repeat what has been said in a former Report, that no set of children are more admirably guarded in health and in sickness, by the untiring and anxious care of all the male and female officers of the Institution, than those of the Western House of Refuge.

The whole number of children received during the year is 159, which, added to 199, the number in the House at the close of last year, makes 358, of which 149 have been discharged, leaving 209 in the Institution at the date of this Report. Until within the last two months nearly all the boys were fully employed, but in consequence of the general financial troubles, the contractors have been obliged to suspend their operations. While this, for the time being, deprives us of the revenue derived from their labor, and the inmates of the advantage of mechanical instruction, it enables us to give more time to their mental improvement. It is expected that one of the contractors will resume work at an early day. The girls have been usefully employed, in making clothing and doing all the washing, ironing and cooking of the Institution. For further information, please see Tables IX. and X. of the Superintendent's Report. The entire operations of the Institution during the past year have been of the most satisfactory character.

The Report of the Superintendent deserves a careful reading, as it contains a detailed history of the Institution during the year, including the entire department of physical, moral and religious discipline.

We also ask your attention to the Report of the Physician, who, we regret to say, retires from the Institution at the close of the year, as his responsible duties in another department of the benevolent field will require all of his time. We desire to say that he retires with the best



wishes of every member of the Board. By his Report you will learn that for the first time death has entered the Refuge, and during the year carried three of our children down to the grave.

We ask your attention to the Report of the Ladies' Committee.

The male department is filled to its utmost capacity, and it will be necessary to build an addition to the wing containing the boys' dormitories, to enable us to accommodate the large number committed to our care from the several counties of Western Pennsylvania. We cannot build this addition without receiving aid from such counties of the Western Judicial District as have not already subscribed, and from the State.

The Report of the Treasurer will exhibit to you the financial condition of the Institution, and the pressing necessity of further aid by county subscriptions and State appropriation.

Our debts are,	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$25,254.55
Our assets,	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,916.29

Our expenditures on permanent improvements have been,

For Lot,	-	-	-	-	-	\$10,000.00
“ Building,	-	-	-	-	-	95,595.00
“ Machinery, Heating and Furnishing,	-	-	-	-	-	10,255.00
“ Gas Works and Fixtures,	-	-	-	-	-	5,000.00
						<hr/>
						\$120,850.00

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS BY COUNTIES.

Allegheny County,	-	\$10,000	Armstrong County,	-	\$2,500
Fayette	“	-	Washington	“	-
Beaver	“	-	Erie	“	-
Lawrence	“	-	Crawford	“	-
		2,500			1,500
		2,500			

We now submit for your consideration the whole subject of this Report, relying with confidence upon a liberal appropriation by the State, and subscriptions by counties

that have not appropriated anything to aid an Institution in which all the counties of the Western Judicial District of the State are equally interested. We would respectfully urge upon such counties the great importance of making subscriptions at an early day.

By order of the Board of Managers.

JAMES ANDERSON,

*President.*

DECEMBER 31st, 1857.



# Superintendent's Report.

*To the Managers of the House of Refuge  
of Western Pennsylvania :*

The Superintendent, in his Fourth Annual Report, respectfully presents the following summary relative to the progress of the Institution during the past year, and also other statistics of interest, from its commencement to the present time.

**TABLE I.**

*Showing the number of Inmates of the Institution on the 23d of December, 1856, the number admitted and discharged since the last Annual Report, and the present number in the House.*

	No. of Inmates, Dec. 23, 1856.	Received in 1857.	Discharged in 1857.	Remaining, Dec. 22, 1857.
Boys,.....	149	109	107	151
Girls,.....	50	50	42	58
Totals,.....	199	159	149	209

**TABLE II.**

*Showing the sources from whence 159 Inmates were received during the year 1857.*

COUNTIES.	Committed by Magistrates.	Committed by Courts.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
From Allegheny County,.....	104	7	74	37	111
“ Greene County,.....	0	1	1	0	1
“ Crawford County,.....	0	2	2	0	2
“ Mercer County,.....	1	1	1	1	2
“ Fayette County,.....	1	1	2	0	2
“ Erie County,.....	1	3	4	0	4
“ Indiana County,.....	1	0	1	0	1
“ Lawrence County,.....	2	3	4	1	5
“ Washington County,.....	2	1	2	1	3
“ Beaver County,.....	4	0	3	1	4
“ Armstrong County,.....	1	0	0	1	1
“ M’Kean County,.....	0	1	1	0	1
Returned, having been inden- } tured,..... }	14	6	12	8	20
Returned, having been dis- } charged on parole,..... }	2	0	2	0	2
Totals,.....	133	26	109	50	159

Of those returned, 6 boys and 1 girl came back voluntarily. Ninety were committed on complaint, and by request of their parents, or nearest friends.

The greatest number of boys, at any one time, was 155; girls, 63.

**TABLE III.**

*Showing the disposal of 149 Inmates, discharged during the year 1857.*

DISCHARGED.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Indentured,.....	48	28	76
Returned to friends,.....	24	8	32
Discharged on parole of honor,.....	15	3	18
Not proper subjects,.....	7	2	9
Returned to master,.....	1	0	1
Sent to Almshouse,.....	5	0	5
Sent to Hospital,.....	1	0	1
Escaped,.....	3	1	4
Died, .....	3	0	3
Totals,.....	107	42	149
Remaining in the Institution, December 22, 1857,....	151	58	209

Since the opening of the Institution, there have been committed, 288 boys and 127 girls. Total, 415. They were received from the following counties, viz:

Allegheny county, 355; Armstrong, 4; Beaver, 7; Butler, 3; Cambria, 1; Crawford, 4; Erie, 10; Fayette, 9; Greene, 1; Indiana, 1; Lawrence, 7; Mercer, 5; M'Kean, 1; Somerset, 2; Washington, 3; Warren, 1; Westmoreland, 1.

**TABLE IV.**

*Showing the Nativity of all committed.*

	1857.	Previously.	Total.
Born in Pennsylvania,.....	88	175	263
“ Ohio,.....	12	14	26
“ Virginia,.....	3	6	9
“ New York,.....	3	10	13
“ Massachusetts,.....	0	1	1
“ Illinois,.....	0	2	2
“ New Jersey,.....	0	2	2
“ Louisiana,.....	1	2	3
“ Maryland,.....	0	1	1
“ Kentucky,.....	0	1	1
UNITED STATES,.....	—107	—214	—321
“ Ireland,.....	6	15	21
“ Germany,.....	6	20	26
“ Canada,.....	1	6	7
“ Scotland,.....	1	1	2
“ England,.....	4	2	6
“ France,.....	0	2	2
“ Hindostan,.....	0	1	1
“ Wales,.....	0	2	2
FOREIGN COUNTRIES,.....	— 18	— 49	— 67
Not known where born,.....	11	16	27
Totals,.....	136	279	415

The following counties of Pennsylvania furnish the places of nativity of 263 of the inmates, viz:

Allegheny, 169; Armstrong, 4; Beaver, 7; Bedford, 1; Butler, 13; Fayette, 13; Franklin, 7; Huntingdon, 1; Indiana, 4; Jefferson, 1; Lancaster, 1; Mercer, 2; Clarion, 3; Somerset, 1; Erie, 5; Crawford, 3; Washington, 3; Luzerne, 1; Chester, 1; Lawrence, 3; Philadelphia, 7; Dauphin, 2; Westmoreland, 2; Cambria, 1; Mifflin, 2;



Blair, 1; Delaware, 1; Cumberland, 1; Venango, 1; Schuylkill, 2. Total, 263.

**TABLE V.**

*Showing the Parentage of all committed.*

	1857.	Previously.	Total.
American, .....	43	68	111
Irish, .....	35	83	118
German, .....	10	50	60
English, .....	11	17	28
French, .....	0	3	3
Scotch, .....	4	3	7
Welsh, .....	0	6	6
Swede, .....	0	1	1
Hindoo, .....	0	1	1
Spanish, .....	0	1	1
African, .....	8	27	35
Unknown, .....	25	19	44
Totals, .....	136	279	415

Of the 415 infants committed, 260 were of foreign parentage.

**TABLE VI.**

*Showing the Ages of all committed.*

AGE.	1857.	Previously.	Total.
Twenty years, .....	1	2	3
Nineteen years, .....	2	5	7
Eighteen years, .....	5	11	16
Seventeen years, .....	15	22	37
Sixteen years, .....	11	28	39
Fifteen years, .....	15	44	59
Fourteen years, .....	22	38	60
Thirteen years, .....	16	34	50
Twelve years, .....	13	28	41
Eleven years, .....	12	21	33
Ten years, .....	10	19	29
Nine years, .....	5	15	20
Eight years, .....	6	7	13
Seven years, .....	2	2	4
Five years, .....	1	2	3
Four years, .....	0	1	1
Totals, .....	136	279	415

Average age—Boys, 14; Girls, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

In estimating the *average age*, respect has been had to those who were considered suitable subjects.

**TABLE VII.**

*Showing the Offenses of all committed.*

	1857.	Previously.	Total.
For Larceny,.....	30	64	94
“ Incorrigibility,.....	79	129	208
“ Vagrancy,.....	12	63	75
“ Prostitution,.....	11	20	31
“ Malicious Mischief,.....	1	2	3
“ Forgery,.....	0	1	1
“ Intemperance,.....	1	0	1
“ Arson,.....	1	0	1
“ Assault and Battery,.....	1	0	1
Totals,.....	136	279	415

**TABLE VIII.**

*Showing the number of Inmates that had lost one or both Parents, previous to their admission; and the number of those whose Parents are separated.*

	1857.	Previously.	Total.
Had lost both parents by death,.....	20	50	70
“ their mothers “ .....	30	56	86
“ their fathers “ .....	45	107	152
“ one or both parents by death,....	95	213	308
Parents living in a state of separation,...	18	23	41
“ not separated,.....	23	43	66
Totals,.....	136	279	415

**TABLE IX.**

*Showing the amount earned by Labor of Boys.*

In the Caning of Seats, &c.....	\$2,110 31 $\frac{1}{4}$
“ Plating of Bridle Bits, Stirrups, &c.....	1,683 00
“ Making of Trunks and Boxes,.....	481 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total,.....	\$4,274 43 $\frac{3}{4}$

Until within the last two months, all the inmates were fully employed in the various departments; but in consequence of the recent financial embarrassments, so generally felt throughout our country, the contractors for labor of boys have been under the necessity of suspending operations for the present. It is expected that the labors of the Plating Shop will be resumed in the first week of the following month.

**TABLE X.**

*Showing the amount of Work done by the Girls.*

Jackets,.....	339	Pillow and Bolster Cases,	60
Pants,.....	342	Towels, .....	86
Shirts, .....	375	Bed Quilts,.....	70
Girls' Dresses,.....	270	Bed Ticks, &c.....	106
Under Garments,.....	221	Capes and Collars,.....	40
Boys' Aprons,.....	272	Carpet, yards, .....	99
Girls' Aprons,.....	204	Miscellaneous }	10,845
Sheets,.....	116	Mending, &c. }	

In addition to the above, the girls do all the washing, ironing and cooking of the Institution.

### SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS.

The School Departments have been in successful operation during the year. No change has taken place in the corps of teachers, excepting by the addition of one male teacher—Mr. George C. M'Kinley.

The text books and the order of instruction in the several classes, have not been materially changed. For further information on these subjects, you are referred to my past annual Reports.

The inmates daily receive at least four hours instruction. They are divided into eight classes, class No. 1 being the highest.

While the number of volumes in our Libraries have been increased, it is desirable that a greater variety of reading matter should still be introduced.



At present there are in the Boys' Library, 398 volumes.

“ “ Girls’ “ 236 “

Total,	-	-	-	634	"
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Many of these are of the smaller description of Sunday school books.

The teachers and other officers of the House have discharged their duties with fidelity. They merit my cordial approbation for their invariable support to me in the discharge of my official duties ; and for their many acts of kindness, I am under lasting obligations.

## RELATING TO BOYS' SCHOOL.

### TABLE XI.

*Showing the Attainments of those at present in the House, and their Attainments when admitted into the Institution.*

Attainments when admitted into the School.		CLASSES.	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Total.
22	Boys were admitted into Class 8,	Present attainments,	...	6	6	6	3	...	1	...	22
29	" " " 7,	"	...	6	9	8	3	...	1	2	29
51	" " " 6,	"	...	...	3	25	12	4	4	3	51
38	" " " 5,	"	...	...	...	11	12	3	10	2	38
10	" " " 4,	"	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	...	10
1	" " " 2,	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Whole number of Boys, 151.		Present No. in classes,	...	12	18	50	30	7	19	15	151

TABLE XII.


*Showing the Attainments of those discharged during the year, and their Attainments when admitted into the Institution.*

Attainments when admitted into the School.				CLASSES.	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Total
19 were admitted into Class 8,.....				Attainments when } discharged,	6	2	2	5	2	...	2	...	19
10	"	"	" 7,.....	" .....	...	2	1	4	2	...	1	...	10
30	"	"	" 6,.....	" .....	...	...	4	10	8	4	4	...	30
30	"	"	" 5,.....	" .....	...	...	...	5	4	5	12	4	30
12	"	"	" 4,.....	" .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	11	12
1	"	"	" 3,.....	" .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
1	"	"	" 2,.....	" .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
2	"	"	" 1,.....	" .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Whole No. of Boys discharged, 105.				Disch'ged. from classes,	6	4	7	24	16	9	22	17	105

## RELATING TO GIRLS' SCHOOL.


**TABLE XIII.**

*Showing the Attainments of those at present in the House, and their Attainments when admitted into the Institution.*

Attainments when admitted into the School.	CLASSES. 	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Total.
8 Girls were admitted into Class 8,	Present attainments,	...	1	3	...	2	2	...	...	8
12 " " " 7,	"	...	...	6	1	4	1	...	...	12
36 " " " 6,	"	...	...	...	7	12	4	4	9	36
1 " " " 4,	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
1 " " " 2,	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whole No. of Girls, 58.	Present No. in classes,	...	1	9	8	18	7	5	10	58


**TABLE XIV.**

*Showing the Attainments of those discharged during the year, and their Attainments when admitted into the Institution.*

Attainments when admitted into the School.	CLASSES. 	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Total.
6 were admitted into Class 8,.....	Attainments when } discharged,	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	6
4 " " " 7,.....	"	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	4
32 " " " 6,.....	"	...	...	3	4	5	6	5	9	32
Whole No. of Girls discharged, 42.	Disch'd. from classes,	...	1	3	5	9	10	5	9	42

**TABLE XV.**

*Showing the number of Promotions into the several Classes during the year.*

CLASSES. 	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Total.
BOYS' SCHOOL—No. of Promotions during the year,.....	10	23	36	52	32	25	19	197
GIRLS' SCHOOL— " " " " .....	8	13	32	21	14	15	10	113

Of 137 received during the year, 16 were ignorant of the alphabet; 28 could not read; 49 were beginning to read; and 115 knew not the multiplication table.

The following remarks from the Reports of the Principal Teacher of the Boys' School, and the Teacher of the Girls' School, are worthy of perusal.



## RELATING TO BOYS' SCHOOL.

TO THOS. G. RUTHERFORD, *Superintendent*:

Another year has been numbered with the past, and in the retrospect, our hearts should be filled with feelings of gratitude toward the kind Providence that has watched over us, and has not left us without some evidence that our labors have not been in vain.

In presenting this, my Third Annual Report, I am happy to state, that at no former period has the general prosperity of the School Department been so great as at present. The disadvantages under which we labored during the former year have been entirely removed by the completion of our new and commodious school rooms.

Our efforts to create an interest and arouse a desire to excel, have not been unrewarded. We have seen the slumbering intellect awakened, and the vicious youth endeavor to unlearn his lessons of vice. Commendable progress has been made in most cases. A hasty glance at the tables showing the attainments of the pupils, might make the impression that but little has been accomplished; yet when we consider the exceedingly ignorant condition of the majority of those admitted, we certainly have reason to be encouraged.

As regards natural talent, we think there can be more found in the Refuge school room than in most schools of an equal number elsewhere. We have evidence of this not only in their progress in acquiring knowledge, and in their ability to retain it, but also in their well concocted schemes to elude our vigilance. Indeed, talent uncultivated has been the means of sending many to the Refuge.

During the year, our Library has received some valuable accessions. The books are highly prized, and read with avidity; and where the love of reading is so general as among the inmates, a well selected Library of instructive,



moral and religious books, under judicious management, may be made a most important auxiliary in promoting the mental and moral improvement of the readers.

In addition to their regular school studies, the pupils have committed to memory a number of chapters from the Scriptures, also hymns, and other moral selections.

In conclusion, permit me, sir, to acknowledge that from you I have received valuable instructions and directions in my official duties. To Messrs. J. D. Turner and G. M'Kinley, Assistant Teachers, I tender my sincere thanks for their co-operation in my humble efforts for the advancement of the happiness and interest of those committed to our care. Hoping that the choicest smiles of Heaven may rest upon us, and that our fondest anticipations of continued prosperity may be realized,

This Report is respectfully submitted, by

S. J. FREW, *Teacher.*

#### RELATING TO GIRLS' SCHOOL.

TO THOS. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq. *Superintendent:*

In making my Third Annual Review of the School, I can say we have been repaid in a degree for our toils and anxieties by the praiseworthy efforts generally put forth by the girls. But few of them have availed themselves of the advantages presented by common schools. Many have lost one or both of their parents at an age when children are the more easily led into the paths of vice, and from this or other causes their education has been almost, and in many cases, entirely neglected. The mind by nature is inclined to seek pleasure from some source, and being separated from their former associations they have but few alternatives here, therefore their school duties are generally performed with cheerfulness and alacrity.

In connection with their lessons, they memorize large portions of Scripture, with psalms, hymns and moral poems. The approbation of the School Committee, the deep interest manifested by the Ladies' Committee, and the untiring efforts and valuable suggestions of the very worthy Superintendent, have been important auxiliaries in carrying forward the great object of the School Department.

With earnest desire for the future welfare of the children, and the success of the Institution, permit me to subscribe myself,

ELIZABETH HERVEY,

*Teacher.*

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

With pleasure we record our indebtedness to those friends who have kindly furnished us with books, papers, &c. during the year, viz :

To Mrs. George Weyman, for 77 volumes for Library.

“ Mrs. Charlotte Smith, 21 “ “

“ Mr. John Sampson, Esq. 10 “ “

“ J. H. Mellor, Esq. for 2 “Music Books.”

“ J. Douthett, Esq. for 20 volumes History.

“ Wm. Holmes, for 100 copies “Common Prayer Book.”

“ Messrs. M'Candless & Kirkpatrick, for 6 dozen “Psalm Books.”

“ Mrs. George Weyman, for packages of Papers.

“ Col. Anderson, “ “

“ Miss Munroe, of Baltimore, for 100 vols. for Library.

“ Young Men's Christian Association, for files of Papers.

“ Master Milton Hays, “ “

“ Mr. Wolf, Pittsburgh, for Books and Papers.

“ Mr. Yeager, “ for 6 Balloons on July 4.

“ Messrs. Eckert & Co. for 100 lbs. Prime Beef on July 4.

“ Dr. Baker, Economy, for 2 bbls. Vegetables.



We receive from the publishers the following journals, viz: Daily Dispatch, Daily Post, Evening Chronicle, Missionary, Christian Advocate, Presbyterian Banner & Advocate, Franklin Repository & Transcript, Evangelical Repository, Lawrence Journal, Examiner, Commonwealth, Beaver Argus, New Castle Gazette, and Presbyterian Witness of Cincinnati.

We have been favored by the visits of distinguished persons during the year, among whom were

Mr. JAMES J. BARCLAY, Vice President of the Philadelphia House of Refuge.

Hon. Mr. LEIGH, Manager of the New York House of Refuge.

Dr. SPEER and lady, Editors of the "Prisoner's Friend."  
Miss DIX, the Friend of the Unfortunate.

Members of the Lutheran Conference.

The "Grand Jury," and others.

We are also under special obligations to Professor SLACK, for gratuitous instruction imparted to the inmates in Vocal Music.

#### DISCIPLINE.

Our discipline, as far as we can effect it, is of a paternal character. It has been our desire to enforce strict discipline in the mildest and most considerate manner, remembering the wants and necessities of the youthful heart and mind. More than ever we feel convinced, that in order to advance the work of reformation, it is essential to cultivate the kindlier feelings of the youthful heart by reiterated acts of love and kindness.

The officers generally appear to feel and act in reference to the great responsibility devolving upon them.

One feature of interest particularly encouraging, is the remarkable attention paid by the inmates generally to the



reading of the Scriptures, and the accompanying exercises of instruction, praise and prayer. These daily habits—this “line upon line” and “precept upon precept,” cannot fail in being productive of good. This interest does not appear to be the result of constraint, but of desire; therefore we have much confidence that our labor will not be in vain.

Our Sunday morning exercises are as usual conducted by the Superintendent, and are strictly family gatherings. The officers as well as inmates take deep interest in these meetings. They appear to be productive of good.

The services of the Chapel in the afternoon are regularly conducted by clergymen of different denominations, who are entitled to our warmest thanks for the interest they manifest in the general welfare of the Institution. Their efforts have been peculiarly suited to the wants of the children.

As our system of grades is the same as described in a previous Report, it is therefore unnecessary to be repeated.

I would here take the opportunity of stating, that in many instances the inmates have been permitted to visit their parents and friends in Pittsburgh and other places. They have uniformly returned at the time appointed. This method of reward is not without its good results.

The boys and girls have on sundry occasions been taken in parties to visit our kind neighbors in the vicinity. On one occasion we took all of the male inmates in a body, and walked through the beautiful grounds of Mr. H. Brady Wilkins. To their credit, we had not to reprove one of the whole number for any impropriety during the visit. The girls on two occasions visited in a body the same place. On each of our visits, Mrs. Wilkins most generously and bountifully treated the inmates to cakes and milk. Some of our most pleasant visits were made to Lehmer's Hill, where the children found much pleasure in contemplating the extended and magnificent scenery that everywhere

greet the eye. We will not soon forget the pleasing effect produced in the quiet of the evening, as the hymns of praise arose from their youthful hearts. The Misses Lehmer are especially entitled to our thanks for the many courtesies extended to us, on these and similar occasions.

#### RELATING TO CHILDREN DISCHARGED.

We might give many pleasing instances of progress in morals and good deportment as developing in the House, but as the proof of the success of such Institutions depends upon the general character of those discharged, I will therefore give a summary as reliable as I have data to make it, of the conduct and deportment of those discharged.

Since the opening of the Institution, of those discharged (151 boys and 69 girls,) there have been returned 15 boys and 11 girls.

Of the boys, *three* were not returned for moral delinquency; *two* returned of their own accord, not being suited in the places provided for them; *three* others returned voluntarily, of which two were immediately discharged and are now doing well.

Of the girls, *five* of those returned were among the number who were indentured shortly after their admission into the House, not having been altogether considered suitable subjects.

Concerning the remainder who are out on their discharge in various ways, to the best of our knowledge, we know of but 12 boys and 6 girls whose characters are at present doubtful, or who are not doing well.

We have received fifty-four answers to queries addressed to persons to whom inmates have been indentured: in relation to boys, 27; to girls, 27. From these answers we learn that 21 of the boys and 23 of the girls give satisfaction, and the majority of the remainder are by no means discouraging.



Those inmates who have been discharged on their parole of honor, have, with two or three exceptions done well. This manner of discharge, when judiciously exercised, meets my cordial approbation.

One feature of our operations is worthy of particular notice. With very few exceptions, those of our discharged inmates who have not done well have been returned to the Institution. Owing to the efficiency of our Police system, it is almost impossible for absconding apprentices to remain in or about the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, without their being returned.

Extracts from letters relating to children who have been indentured, will be found appended to this Report.

#### A VISIT TO THE WEST.

By direction of the Board, I visited a number of children indentured in the West, principally in Illinois and Iowa. The visit was encouraging, and is likely to result in good to masters and apprentices. I was received with marked hospitality, and every facility was tendered to further the object of my visit.

I found the children generally doing well. One evidence of this was the increased interest manifested by those acquainted with our operations in desiring to procure apprentices. Judging from the characters of persons having our children in charge, we have reason to infer that the labors of the Indenturing Committee have been conducted with marked discrimination and success.

It was particularly pleasing to behold the intense pleasure afforded to the children by the visit. The satisfaction could not have been much greater, had they been visited by the most esteemed of parents. In some cases my visit was particularly opportune, enabling me to administer such counsel and advice as appeared necessary. The affection displayed by some of them for their Refuge



*home* was cheering. Such visits, occasionally, cannot fail in good results.

Great care should be exercised, especially in indenturing to farmers residing in new countries. The desire of suddenly becoming rich is often so strong, that some of them are apt to overlook their own, as also the physical wants and necessities of their apprentices.

#### HEALTH.

The health of the Institution at the present time, is excellent. For a portion of the year we had much more sickness than usual. There were several cases of intermittent and typhoid fevers; some of which assumed a serious aspect. Our Physician and Nurse deserve special commendation for the very tender and constant interest manifested to the sick.

Death first invaded our precincts this year. Three boys have passed from time into the unseen realities of eternity. The *first*, a colored boy about nineteen years of age, who had been with us twenty months; during which time he manifested a strong desire for moral improvement. He came to us ignorant of the alphabet: he lived, to read for himself from the Scriptures of truth, in which he greatly delighted. Possessed of a naturally feeble constitution, the gnawings of *consumption* insidiously and suddenly stopped the fountain of life. The day before he breathed his last on earth he was speaking of going into the country as an apprentice; but by the light of the following day, he passed to a "better country," without apparent pain or suffering. His last vocal efforts were in singing the beautiful hymn,

"On Jordan's stormy bank I stand,  
And cast a wishful eye," &c.

The *second* case was also that of a colored boy about fourteen years of age. He had been with us eight months.

Although he spoke little, he was always an attentive listener to religious and moral instruction. As a lamb, he was patient and submissive; always content and thankful for kindness extended. He, too, possessed a frail constitution, and was a prey to that fell destroyer, *consumption*.

The *third* death, was that of a white boy thirteen years of age. Previous to his admission he had been for several years an inmate of the Allegheny County Poorhouse. He was a child of misfortune, and naturally possessed of very feeble powers of body and mind. The disease which consigned him to the grave was *typhoid fever*. While we are not able to infer much of his inward experience, we feel content to leave his case in the hands of Him who will not require much of those to whom little is given.

These youths, after due solemnities, were decently interred in Mount Union Cemetery. To the credit, principally of the boys, a neat gravestone marks the final resting place of their mortal remains.

#### REMARKS.

We have had our joys and our sorrows. We have had those who appreciate the language and manner of kindness, and also those whose moral sense is so obtuse as to be almost incapable of perceiving the difference between light and darkness, between truth and error. Nevertheless, we have much to encourage us. The work is important, and the labors of sincerity will not be in vain. If we but break up the fallow ground and sow the seeds of Christian morality, He who never slumbers nor sleeps—who is interested in this and all other works of reform, will not fail to quicken into life the seed of truth. The dews of his grace he will pour upon the pious efforts of the least of his subjects.

The *male inmates* have done well. We have seldom occasion to resort to the sterner form of discipline. In



the school rooms and in the work shops they prove themselves mentally and physically equal to, at least, the average youth of our land. In the play ground we are more likely to see the results of their past training. Here there is a tendency to roughness of manner and action. In view of this fact, it is a matter of importance that officers should be particularly vigilant in counteracting and modifying this proclivity, which, when developed, renders youths a terror and disgrace to communities. It requires much wisdom and experience in controlling and directing youth during hours of relaxation and enjoyment. Few persons possess necessary tact in modifying this excessive hilarity without interfering with the necessary freedom of mind, that renders enjoyment a means of moral and healthful development. This is a subject of importance, and care should be taken that judicious overseers should always be in attendance during periods of intermission from mental and physical labor.

The *girls*, in general, have done well, particularly those who have been discharged. But there are difficulties in the discipline of females, of which the disciplinarian of males may know but little, their more sensitive organizations rendering them at times more impulsive and changeable than boys. I allude particularly to the general grade of females admitted to Schools of Reform.

There is another fact that makes the government of the female department of a Refuge a matter of weighty responsibility. Their average age on admission, is generally greater than that of boys. And even when this is not the case, their more premature habits and developments, render them subjects for a different kind of discipline than may be necessary for the other sex. The least relaxation in discipline, or want of watchfulness by the officers in charge, may suddenly open the door to overwhelming evils. To avert such dangers, a charge of female officers should be especially avoided. Long experience, linked



with untiring fidelity at all times, are the absolute essentials to success in this department.

Thus far we have had but two officers of the female department retire from their respective positions—an assistant Matron, formerly Miss M. M'Laughlin, now wife of Rev. H. W. Guthrie, and Mrs. Neely, now Mrs. D. Moore, who acted in the capacity of Housekeeper. As officers, these ladies were entitled to much praise.

Perfect unanimity reigns in the midst of the present corps of female officers. The will of our highly esteemed and judicious Matron, Miss Ann Magee, is the controlling but benign motive power that keeps in motion that maternal and Christian discipline which has so generally characterized this department.

In conclusion, gentlemen, for the many evidences of kindness, sympathy and support received uniformly from you all, since my connection with the Institution, permit me to offer you the expression of my sincere and heartfelt thanks.

With the hope that our efforts may not prove unavailing, and that a kind and merciful Providence may ever watch over and foster the good work committed to your guardianship,

This Report is respectfully submitted, by

THOS. G. RUTHERFORD,

*Superintendent.*

DECEMBER 22d, 1857.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

From Persons to whom former Inmates have been Indentured.

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### RELATING TO BOYS.

NOVEMBER, 1857.

T. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq.: *Dear Sir.*—I am well pleased with James. He is of a kind disposition, and learns his business, though not so fast as some; yet eventually he will do well.

I am well pleased with your dealings with me.

Yours, respectfully,

T. B.

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NOVEMBER 7th, 1857.

Mr. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Friend.*—With regard to your first question respecting M. W., he has been obedient to my commands.

He has in all things been honest, as well as industrious. In a word, he has no desire to leave his place.

I am your obedient servant,

J. B.

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OCTOBER 9th, 1857.

T. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq.: *Sir.*—Frederick is getting along very well; he has good health, is very bidable, industrious, and quite a business boy. We are well pleased with him, and he is contented.

Yours, truly,

M. H. M'B.

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OCTOBER 21st, 1857.

Mr. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—Respecting Robert, he is obedient to our commands. He has improved in his employment, attends regularly a place of worship, and is quite contented.

I am your obedient servant,

J. F.

NOVEMBER 2d, 1857.

T. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq.: *Dear Sir.*—In answer to your inquiries in regard to R. C. F., I take pleasure in stating to you that for morality and general good behavior he has but few equals. In industry and obedience to orders, few equals among the most orderly.

I am yours, respectfully.

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NOVEMBER 8th, 1857.

Mr. THOS. G. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—William has been a good, obedient boy. He has never kept bad company. He has been honest, and tells the truth. He has been industrious, and improves in his employment.

I am, dear sir, yours, respectfully,

S. M'C.

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NOVEMBER 12th, 1857.

Mr. THOMAS RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—John N. has been an industrious obedient boy thus far; is getting a knowledge of doing many kinds of work; is not so quick and ready as many boys, but he patiently tries to improve. He does not show any disposition to be stubborn or lazy.

Yours, &c.

W. S.

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NOVEMBER 14th, 1857.

Mr. T. G. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—I will send this by J. himself, and if you always send out such boys, I think that the people will never regret building such an Institution.

Yours, in haste,

E. M. S.

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NOVEMBER 16th, 1857.

Mr. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—It is with much pleasure that I write to you concerning Thomas; he has been a very good boy, since he came to live with me, and I am very much pleased with him; he is not inclined to have much company with other boys, but is much interested in attending to the store. He is trusty and honest. So nothing more at present,

From yours, respectfully,

J. M'K.



## RELATING TO GIRLS.

OCTOBER 15th, 1857.

THOS. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq.: *Dear Sir.*—I am glad to have it in my power to give a favorable account of Margaret; she has given, thus far, every satisfaction to myself and family. They all think well of poor Margaret, and she appears to appreciate the kindness of the family, and seems to be fully contented and feels herself at home.

Respectfully, yours,

WM. H. R.

OCTOBER 18th, 1857.

Mr. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—In answer to your queries, I shall have to answer them from the report made to me from my son-in-law and daughter, in whose care I left her, as I had to be from home most of the time she has been with us. But they say she has been generally careful to tell the truth, and obedient to their commands. She has been honest, and generally industrious, and improves in her employment. She attends Sabbath school. With the hope of having much satisfaction with her, I subscribe myself,

Yours, respectfully,

E. R.

NOVEMBER 12th, 1857.

T. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq.: *Dear Friend.*—Mrs. F. is very well satisfied with Margaret; she is willing and active in obedience to requests made of her. We are only sorry her time is so near at an end. She has always been honest and industrious, and improves in her employment.

Yours, W. C. F.

OCTOBER 17th, 1857.

Mr. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—I am constrained to write hopefully respecting our little girl, Caroline B. She is kind, affectionate and obedient, and withal remarkably active. As respects honesty and truth, she is very exemplary in these things. The chief difficulty we meet in her case is an inordinate rage for play, which often betrays her into complete forgetfulness. We hope,

however, that as childhood wears off she will "put away childish things." We think she will improve and be of great service to us.

She retains a lively and very kind remembrance of you and of her other friends at the House of Refuge.

I remain, truly yours,

J. R. H.

NOVEMBER 19th, 1857.

Mr. T. G. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—M. G. is generally as obedient to my commands, as much so as could be expected for one of her turn and early habits. We have not discovered any traits of dishonesty in her. She is as industrious as could be expected for one of her age, all things considered. She has attended Sabbath school, and committed her Catechism and Scripture lessons with tolerable industry. She has attended Church constantly and deported herself well. I think she will do very well.

Respectfully yours, &c.

S W.

NOVEMBER 3d, 1857.

Mr. T. G. RUTHERFORD: *Dear Sir.*—We are happy to say about L. M. that we are now encouraged by her conduct, and hope favorably of her future worthiness and respectability. She manifests a becoming and hopeful interest in attending worship. She is with us as one of the family, and appears happy and cheerful, frequently to excess. Any interest in her well-being and well-doing by the officers of the House of Refuge, will be thankfully appreciated; and I would here acknowledge my felt obligations for the seasonable admonitions of the Superintendent and Matron, which I doubt not have been salutary upon the girl.

Very respectfully, yours,

J. C.

## Physician's Report.

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*To the Board of Managers:*

GENTLEMEN.—In compliance with the By-Laws of the Refuge, I present to you this, the Third Annual Report. In the last one, I had the pleasure of congratulating you on the health and the entire exemption from mortality in the Refuge during the two previous years, but the satisfaction in presenting this one is lessened, by the fact that sickness and death has been in our midst.

During the first half of the past year, the same high degree of health prevailed as before. But in July, without any of the premonitory signs of an epidemic, a fever of a miasmatic character occurred, prostrating several of the officers and many of the inmates, and after lingering over two months with us, disappeared as suddenly as it came, leaving the Refuge in its usual health. The cases presented were of an Intermittent, Remittent and Typhoid form, all of which yielded to treatment but one; this one was a boy of scrofulous habit, and although he had passed the crisis of his fever, and received all the care that could be given by the officers of the House, his enfeebled frame gave way, and he now fills the orphan's grave.

This singular visitation was almost entirely confined to the Male department, and those of long residence in the House sickened equally with those recently admitted; and the officers as well as the inmates were prostrated.

To what cause to attribute it, we are at a loss to decide.



The same hygienic measures were in daily use, the same diet, employment, clothing, &c. as in more favored seasons. Everything that would contribute to the comfort or physical health of those under his care, received the constant attention of the Superintendent.

Two other deaths occurred during the year, but from causes independent of the epidemic. One died suddenly, the other after a protracted illness; and both were victims of Consumption.

Thus far the inmates have escaped all contagious epidemics, as well as Ophthalmia, Erysipelas, &c. so often the scourge of crowded Institutions.

The summer passed with much less than the ordinary number of cases incident to the season.

But one accident of a serious nature has happened, and that had a favorable issue.

The introduction of heat by steam pipe to the dormitories, will very materially enhance the comfort of those apartments, and we would hope would be conducive to the health of the children.

To Drs. Speer and Perchment, I am under obligations for gratuitous professional services in the Refuge during the year; and to the Superintendent, Matron and other officers, I am deeply indebted for assistance in the discharge of my duties, who by their many acts of courtesy have rendered labor light that otherwise might have proved burdensome. To the Members of the Board my thanks are due for their confidence and support during three years service; and in dissolving my connection with the Refuge, allow me to express my earnest wishes for its future prosperity and usefulness.

Yours, respectfully,

J. A. REED.

## Report of Ladies' Committee.

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*To the Board of Managers of the House of Refuge:*

In presenting our Annual Report to the Board of Managers, we would acknowledge with gratitude the favor of Divine Providence, in prospering this benevolent enterprise in our midst; in permitting us to exert an influence in behalf of the inmates of the Refuge, and in crowning with success the efforts intended for their benefit.

Our monthly meetings have been generally well attended, and a lively interest manifested at them. In our conference with the Matron, we have endeavored to keep in view, whatever would increase the happiness of the inmates, or promote the interests of the House. With a few exceptions we have been encouraged, having every reason to rejoice in the good work going on prosperously. In some instances we have convincing evidence from some of the larger girls, of the blessing it has proved to them. Several of the female inmates are from the age of ten to twelve years, of whom we have every hope that they may become useful and happy under the present training. It has been a source of pleasure and gratification to witness the improvement of the children from time to time, and reflect upon what good will ultimately result from it. Owing to the increased number, there was a change made in our plan of instructing them. At the suggestion of the worthy Superintendent, the girls were divided into classes; the reason for this is sufficiently obvious. Our Weekly Report Book will show that our weekly visits have been



duly attended to; (I pray with much good.) The Girls' School under Miss Hervey is well conducted, the discipline and management apparent in the quietude and order that prevail, and the readiness with which they perform their various duties. The Ladies' Committee have derived pleasure in visiting it, and hearing them exercise in the different studies. They certainly have a pleasant and comfortable school room, and good teachers, where all their mental powers are improved. This is an excellent feature of the Refuge, combined with the other privileges. Religious and moral principles are strictly inculcated daily, both by precept and example.

The management of the Female department, under Miss Magee and assistants, has met our warmest approbation, and is commendable. In her constant and faithful discharge of all the duties and responsibilities devolving upon her, order and regularity are visible in the household, and we have no doubt her kindness and attention exert a due influence over the inmates, and that she is looked up to with motherly affection by most of the children. The female officers have been constant and faithful in the discharge of the duties pertaining to them, and we judge everything is conducted on the most judicious and economical principle, and for the best interests of the Refuge. The cheerfulness and health of the children are indications of the proper and systematic training they receive. We cannot close this brief Report without referring to the pleasant intercourse we have had with the officers during our visits; they have been uniformly affable and complaisant.

We pray our Heavenly Father will continue to bestow his richest blessing upon the Refuge, and give the inmates that divine grace which will prepare them for His kingdom.

Respectfully submitted.

A. R. ABBOTT.

DECEMBER 7, 1857.



# JOSHUA HANNA, Treasurer,

## In Account with the House of Refuge for Western Pennsylvania.

DR.

CR.

Balance from Report of 1856, .....	\$ 1,949 58	Paid for Supplies, .....	\$10,888 83
State Appropriation, .....	25,000 00	Paid for Clothing, .....	2,002 93
Counties, for support of inmates, .....	5,870 38	Paid for Building and Furnishing, .....	8,494 57
Labor of inmates, .....	2,243 35	Paid for Salaries, .....	7,237 34
Money borrowed, .....	8,918 34	Paid borrowed money, ..	9,000 00
Sale of County Bonds, .....	1,000 00	Paid Gas Works, .....	2,856 92
Individual subscriptions, .....	158 00	Paid Interest and Tax on Loans, .....	1,060 30
Interest on County Bonds, .....	146 00	Paid Printing and Stationery, .....	153 33
		Paid Commissions and Committees' expenses, ...	330 00
		Paid rent of Office, (three years,) .....	275 00
		Paid Insurance, .....	75 00
		<i>Balance Cash</i> , .....	2,911 43
			<u>\$45,285 65</u>
Jan. 1, 1858. <i>Cash in Treasury</i> , .....	\$2,911 43		

PITTSBURGH, January 1, 1858.

# ASSETS and LIABILITIES.

Cash in Treasury,.....	\$2,911 43	Money borrowed,.....	\$14,510 00
Due from Allegheny County to July 1st, 1857,..	3,334 20	Supplies, .....	3,451 52
Due from Washington County to July 1st, 1857,	2 49	Clothing,.....	1,262 13
Due from Westmoreland Co. to July 1st, 1857,..	45 05	Building and Furnishing,.....	1,825 40
Due from Greene County to July 1st, 1857,.....	7 86	Heating,.....	1,675 00
Erie County Bonds,.....	500 00	Gas Works,.....	1,200 00
Crawford County Bonds,.....	1,000 00	Lot,.....	1,325 00
Due from Contractors for Boys' labor,.....	2,241 07	Printing,.....	5 50
Due from Estate of William Leekey,.....	22 50		
Due from Counties, from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1857,.	4,851 69		
<i>Balance Liabilities</i> ,.....	10,338 26		
	<u>\$25,254 55</u>		<u>\$25,254 55</u>
		<i>Liabilities over Assets</i> ,.....	\$10,338 26

PITTSBURGH, January 1, 1858.

The undersigned Auditing Committee have examined the Accounts and Statements of JOSHUA HANNA, Treasurer of the Institution, and also his statement of Assets and Liabilities, all of which they find correct.

JOSEPH PENNOCK,  
GILBERT L. B. FETTERMAN, } *Auditing Committee.*

# Acts relative to House of Refuge.

## AN ACT

To incorporate an Association for the establishment of a House of Refuge for Western Pennsylvania.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That all such persons as shall become subscribers to an association, in the manner hereinafter provided, shall be a corporation and body politic in law, by the name, style and title of the "*House of Refuge of Western Pennsylvania,*" and by that name, style, and title, shall have perpetual succession, with the power to have a common seal, and to change the same at pleasure; to establish, erect and manage the House of Refuge in the county of Allegheny, and to make contracts relative to the same, to sue and be sued; and by that name and title be capable, in law, of purchasing, holding and conveying any estate, real or personal, for the use of said corporation; and to establish by-laws and orders for the regulation of the Institution, and the preservation and application of the funds thereof: *Provided,* The same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, or of this Commonwealth.

SEC. 2. That every person who shall subscribe to the articles of such association, and pay to the funds of the Institution the sum of fifty dollars, or ten dollars annually for the term of six years, shall be a member for life; and every person paying the sum of two dollars annually, shall be a member while he continues to contribute the said sum; such payment to be made at the time and



in the manner to be prescribed by the by-laws of the said association.

SEC. 3. That the estate and concerns of the said corporation shall be conducted by the following officers, to wit: a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and twelve Managers, of whom five shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, who shall appoint from their own body a Chairman and Secretary, and prescribe the duties of each. That the members of the said association shall meet within thirty days after five thousand dollars shall have been subscribed, for the purposes provided for by the Act, and on the first Monday of January, annually thereafter, at such place, within the county of Allegheny, as the Board of Managers may, from time to time, appoint, and of which the President—or in case of his absence or refusal to give the same, the Vice President, or any member of the said association—shall give notice in at least two of the daily papers published in the city of Pittsburgh, and elect by a plurality of votes, the aforesaid officers; and whenever any vacancy shall occur by death, resignation or otherwise, the same shall be filled for the remainder of the year, by such person (being a subscriber to the articles of association,) as the Board of Managers—for the time being, or a majority of them—shall appoint: *Provided*, That the notice of the first election may be given by a committee of the contributors appointed for the purpose.

SEC. 4. That if the annual election shall not take place on the day appointed for that purpose, the said corporation shall not therefor be dissolved, but the members of the said Board shall continue in office until a new election, which shall be had at such time and place, and after such notice as the said Board shall prescribe; and in case of an equality of votes for any one or more persons, the said Board shall determine which of such persons shall be considered as elected.

SEC. 5. That the Board of Managers shall provide a suitable building, as a House of Refuge, in the city of Pittsburgh, or county of Allegheny, and establish such regulations respecting the religious and moral education, training, employment, discipline and safe keeping of its inhabitants, as may be deemed expedient and proper.

SEC. 6. That it shall be lawful for the Board of Managers of said House of Refuge, at their discretion, to receive into their care and guardianship, infants, males under the age of twenty-one years, and females under the age of eighteen years, committed to their custody, in either of the following modes, to wit:

1. Infants committed by an alderman or justice of the peace, on the complaint, and due proof made thereof, by the parent, guardian, or next friend of such infant, that by reason of incorrigible or vicious conduct, such infant has rendered his or her control beyond the power of such parent, guardian, or next friend, and made it manifestly requisite that from regard to the morals and future welfare of such infant, he or she should be placed under the guardianship of the Managers of the said House of Refuge.

2. Infants committed by the authority aforesaid, where complaint and due proof have been made that such infant is a proper subject for the guardianship of the Managers of the said House of Refuge, in consequence of vagrancy, or of incorrigible or vicious conduct, and that from the moral depravity, or otherwise, of the parent, or guardian or next friend, in whose custody such infant may be, such parent, guardian or next friend is incapable or unwilling to exercise the proper care and discipline over such incorrigible or vicious infant.

3. Infants who shall be taken or committed as vagrants, or upon any criminal charge, or duly convicted of criminal offenses, as may in the judgment of the court of oyer and terminer, or of the court of quarter sessions of the peace of any county within the Western District; and the said Managers shall have power to place the said children committed to their care during their minority, at such employment, and cause them to be instructed in such branches of useful knowledge as may be suitable to their years and capacities; and they shall have power, at their discretion, to bind out the said children, with their consent, as apprentices during their minority, to such persons and at such places, to learn such proper trades and employments as in their judgment will be most conducive to their reformation and amendment, and will tend to the future benefit and advantage of such children.

SEC. 7. That it shall be the duty of any alderman or justice aforesaid, committing a vagrant, or incorrigible or vicious infant, as



aforesaid, in addition to the adjudication required by the sixth section of this Act, to annex to his commitment the names and residences of the different witnesses examined before him, and the substance of the testimony given by them respectively, on which the said adjudication was founded.

SEC. 8. That it shall be the duty of the president judge of the court of common pleas, and the judges of the district court of Allegheny county, alternately, in such manner as may be arranged between them, at a joint meeting for that purpose, from time to time held, to visit the House of Refuge at least once in two weeks, or oftener, if to said judges it shall seem requisite; and it shall be the duty of the judge so visiting the House of Refuge, carefully to examine into all the commitments to the said House of Refuge, made by the aldermen or justices aforesaid, that have not previously been adjudged upon by one of the said judges in the manner hereinafter directed, which commitments it shall be the duty of the Managers truly and correctly to lay before such judge, and on such examination such judge shall have produced before him by the Managers aforesaid, their superintendent or agent, the infant or infants described in such commitment, and the testimony upon which he or she shall have been adjudged a fit subject for the guardianship of the said Managers, or on which he or she shall be claimed to be held as such; and if, after examining the infant and such testimony, the said judge shall be of opinion that according to the laws of this Commonwealth, regulating the control of infants, a case has been established which, in his opinion, would, according to law, authorize the transfer of the parental authority over such infant, to the Managers of said House of Refuge, then, in that case, it shall be the duty of the said judge to indorse an order on the commitment of the alderman or justice, or direct the infant to be continued under the guardianship of the said Managers, after which it shall be lawful for the said Managers to exercise over all such infants the powers and authorities given them by this Act. But if the said judge shall be of opinion that such case has not been made out, he shall order such infant to be forthwith discharged, which order shall be obeyed by the Managers under the pains and penalties provided by the law against wrongful imprisonment: *Provided*, That it shall be the duty of said judge, at the



request of such infant or any person on his or her behalf, to transfer such hearing to the court house of the court of which he is a member, in order that the infant may have the benefit of counsel and compulsory process to obtain witnesses in his or her behalf, which such judge is authorized to award as fully and amply as any judge or court could do, on the hearing of a writ of habeas corpus: *And provided also*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to interfere with the provisions of an Act for the better securing of personal liberty and preventing unlawful imprisonment, passed the eighteenth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five.

SEC. 9. That the said Managers may, from time to time, make by-laws, ordinances and regulations, relative to the management, government, instruction, discipline, employment and disposition of the said children while in the said House of Refuge, (not contrary to law,) as they may deem proper, and may appoint such officers, agents and servants, as they may deem necessary to transact the business of the said corporation, and may designate their duties. And further, the said Managers shall, annually, lay before the contributors, on the first Monday of January, and transmit to the Legislature, a report setting forth the number of children received into the said House of Refuge, the disposition which shall be made of them, by instructing or employing them in the said House of Refuge, or by binding them out as apprentices, the receipts and expenditures of said Managers, and generally all such facts and particulars as may tend to exhibit the effects, whether beneficial or otherwise, of the said association, and the right is hereby reserved to the Legislature to alter, amend, or repeal this Act.

SEC. 10. That the children received by said Managers under the conviction of any court within the said Western District, shall be clothed, maintained and instructed by the said Managers at the public expense of the proper county from which they came; and the accounts of said children shall be kept by the said Managers in the same manner that the accounts of convicts in the penitentiaries are now directed to be kept by the Inspectors thereof.

SEC. 11. That the ground and buildings erected thereon for the use and object of said association shall be exempt from taxation.

SEC. 12. That the sum of twenty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, to aid in the purchase of ground and the erection of buildings for the use and objects of said association; the said sum to be paid by the State Treasurer on the warrants of the Governor, to be drawn when he shall be satisfied that an equal amount has been *bona fide* subscribed by other responsible parties, and the warrants shall only be drawn for amounts equal to the aggregate payments made from time to time by such other contributors.

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### A SUPPLEMENT.

To an Act for the establishment of a House of Refuge in Western Pennsylvania, passed April 22, 1850.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the several counties embraced within the limits of the Western Judicial District of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, be, and they are hereby authorized to subscribe, the county of Allegheny not exceeding twenty thousand dollars, and the several others of said counties not exceeding ten thousand dollars, to the erection of a House of Refuge for Western Pennsylvania, under the provisions of the Act to which this is a Supplement, and to negotiate loans for the payment of such subscription, and issue bonds therefor in amounts of not less than one hundred dollars, and bearing an interest of not more than six per cent. per annum, which shall be exempt from every species of taxation: *Provided*, That if it shall be necessary to dispose of any bonds issued as aforesaid below their par value, the same shall not be deemed usurious, but such loans shall be taken to be lawful and valid.

SEC. 2. That each of said counties subscribing to said House of Refuge, shall be entitled to appoint by their County Commissioners one manager for every twenty five thousand dollars subscribed, which managers so appointed, shall be in addition to the managers authorized to be elected under the provisions of the Act incorporating said association.



SEC. 3. That no person or persons, corporation or body politic, shall be permitted to open, lay out or construct, any road or highway, either public or private, under any pretense whatever, upon or through any ground owned or occupied by said House of Refuge, without the consent of the Managers thereof.

APPROVED, March 18, 1851.

### A FURTHER SUPPLEMENT

To the Act incorporating the House of Refuge for Western Pennsylvania, passed April twenty-second, one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the nineteenth section of the Act to which this is a further supplement, shall extend and apply to all children received into the House of Refuge of Western Pennsylvania.

SEC. 2. That it shall be lawful for the Board of Managers of said Institution, at their discretion, to retain or bind out female infants committed to their care, (who may be sixteen years of age at the time they were committed,) until they shall reach the age of twenty-one years.

SEC. 3. That so much of the supplement to the Act incorporating said institution, passed March sixteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, as limits the payment of the appropriation made therein to annual payments of five thousand dollars each, be, and the same is hereby repealed; and the State Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay the whole amount undrawn of said appropriation out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, January 31, 1855.

### AN ACT

Establishing Fees for Commitments to House of Refuge.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met,*



*and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the fees upon commitments by Aldermen or Justices of the Peace, to any House of Refuge within this State, shall be as follows, to wit: To any constable or officer for arresting the person committed, fifty cents; to the Alderman or Justice of the Peace directing the commitment, fifty cents; to the constable or other officer delivering the person committed, pursuant to such commitment, at the proper House of Refuge, one dollar, with mileage at the rate of five cents circular for all distances traveled; said fees and mileage to be paid by the county in which the commitment is made: *Provided,* That no allowance for mileage shall be made unless the distance traveled shall exceed seven circular miles.

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#### EXTRACT FROM ACT No. 261,

Approved April 16, 1857.

That the Act for the establishment of a House of Refuge for Western Pennsylvania, is hereby so amended, as to include in the enactment and provision therein made, also such children received by the Managers of the said House of Refuge as may be convicted or committed thereto, agreeably to the provisions of the charter thereof, by any Mayor, Alderman or Justice of the Peace, within the said Western District; and further, that the Mayor of any city within the said Western District, shall have like authority with that given to Aldermen and Justices of the Peace, to commit to the custody of the Managers of the said House of Refuge, and that any commitment heretofore made by any Mayor of any such city, is hereby legalized and made good.

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#### A N A C T

Relative to Houses of Refuge in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties.

No. 509.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the Boards of Managers of the Houses of Refuge for the reformation of juvenile

delinquents, in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties, are hereby respectively authorized, whenever they deem it for the interest of any white inmate duly committed to their custody, to bind or indenture such white inmate to service, during his or her minority; although the party to whom the indenture may be made, may be a citizen of one of the United States, other than this Commonwealth: *Provided*, That no such indenture to service out of this Commonwealth, shall be made without the consent first given of said white inmate.

APPROVED, May 12, 1857.

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Office of the House of Refuge for Western Pennsylvania, }  
PITTSBURGH.

*To the Mayors, Aldermen and Justices of the Peace of the Western Judicial District:*

As many of the commitments to this Institution by Magistrates are informal, and for the purpose of avoiding this informality hereafter, the following resolution has been adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Superintendent be, and he is hereby instructed, not to accept any inmates committed by Mayor, Alderman or Justice of the Peace, when the commitments are informal or incomplete.

All commitments, to be complete, must contain the name of complainant and name of infant, cause of commitment, and testimony of not less than two competent witnesses, whose testimony must be certified by the committing officer.

The committing magistrate must annex to his commitment the names and residences of the different witnesses examined before him, and the substance of the testimony given by them respectively.

We hand you herewith a copy of the Act of incorporation, and desire to call your attention to sections 6 and 7 of said Act.

By order.

B. J. HANNA, *Secretary*.



## FORM OF COMMITMENTS.

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*Form of Commitment on complaint of Parent, Guardian, or next Friend.*

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, ss.

WHEREAS, complaint and due proof have this day been made before me, the subscriber, \_\_\_\_\_, of the said \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ an infant under the age of \_\_\_\_\_ years, that the said infant, by reason of vicious conduct, has rendered \_\_\_\_\_ control beyond the power of the said complainant, and made it manifestly requisite that, from regard to the morals and the future welfare of the infant, *he* should be placed under the guardianship of the Managers of the House of Refuge; I do therefore, in pursuance of the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided, commit the said infant to the custody of the said Managers, and certify to the said Managers that the said infant is in my opinion a proper subject for the said House of Refuge.

WITNESS my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, Anno Domini 18—. \_\_\_\_\_ [L. S.]

The following are the names and residences of the different witnesses examined, and the substance of the testimony given by them respectively, on which the said adjudication was founded, to wit :

\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ being duly \_\_\_\_\_ stated in substance \_\_\_\_\_.

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*Form of Commitment for Vagrancy.*

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, ss.

WHEREAS, complaint and due proof have this day been made before me, the subscriber, \_\_\_\_\_, of the said \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, that \_\_\_\_\_ an infant under the age of \_\_\_\_\_ years, is a proper subject for the guardianship of the Managers of the House of Refuge, in consequence of vagrancy, and that from the \_\_\_\_\_ in whose custody such infant is, such \_\_\_\_\_ is incapable or unwilling to exercise the proper care and discipline over said infant; I do therefore, in pursuance of the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided, commit the said infant to the custody of



said Managers, and certify that said infant is in my opinion a proper subject for the House of Refuge.

WITNESS my hand and seal, this——day of——, Anno Domini 18—. ————, [L. s.]

The following are the names and residences of the different witnesses examined, and the substance of the testimony given by them respectively, on which the said adjudication was founded, to wit:

—— of the——being duly——stated in substance  
——.

*Form of Commitment for Vicious or Criminal Conduct.*

—— of——, ss.

WHEREAS, complaint and due proof have this day been made before me, the subscriber,—— of the said——by—— that—— an infant under the age of——years, is a proper subject for the guardianship of the Managers of the House of Refuge, in consequence of vicious conduct, and that from the—— in whose custody such infant is, such—— is incapable or unwilling to exercise the proper care and discipline over said infant; I do therefore, in pursuance of the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided, commit the said infant to the custody of said Managers, and certify that said infant is in my opinion a proper subject for the House of Refuge.

WITNESS my hand and seal, this——day of——Anno Domini 18—. ————. [L. s.]

The following are the names and residences of the different witnesses examined, and the substance of the testimony given by them respectively, on which the said adjudication was founded, to wit:

—— of the——being duly——stated in substance  
——.

Donations and Subscriptions will be thankfully received by any member of the Board of Managers.

A Life Subscription, is.....\$50.00

An Annual Subscription, is..... 2.00